

While there are signs of economic recovery – last month the economy added 162,000 jobs and last quarter it grew by 5.6 percent – there is more that must be done to spur job creation. Last month, Congress passed and the President signed into law [legislation](#) that establishes new tax incentives for small businesses to retain their current workforce and bring on new employees.

The law creates a new payroll tax exemption for every worker hired in 2010 who has been unemployed for at least 60 days. The bill also includes an incentive to keep employees long term, providing an additional \$1,000 income tax credit for every new employee kept on the payroll for 52 weeks. According to the economist Mark Zandi of Moody's Economy.com, the tax incentives are expected to result in 300,000 new jobs. Additionally, the bill extends Recovery Act provisions that double – from \$125,000 to \$250,000 – the amount small businesses immediately can write off their taxes for capital investments and purchases of new equipment made in 2010. More information about this tax relief can be found [here](#).

This is not the first step we have taken to spur job growth, nor should it be the last. I continue to focus on ways to help small businesses access the credit they need to expand, and to [bolster the innovation](#) that helps create jobs and sustains long-term economic growth.

### **Honoring Bob Franks**

Former U.S. Representative Robert Franks, who died earlier this month, was a proud Republican who stuck to his principles. As a colleague, he was a pleasure to work with – very agreeable with a great sense of humor. Everyone brightened when he came into a room. I also enjoyed working with him as he represented New Jersey's pharmaceutical industry after he left the Congress. Bob's three daughters can grow up knowing that their father had a positive effect on the world.

If you want to share your thoughts about Bob Franks, you can do so on a [House webpage](#) set up shortly after his death.

### **Protecting Wildlife**

[Wildlife corridors](#) are strips of land in which animals of all kinds – wolves, bison, wolverines, to name a few - can move and plants can propagate (one wildlife conservation professor called them “sidewalks for animals”). New Jersey has at least three essential corridors. These corridors help to support a \$68 billion a year economy of hunting and wildlife watching. As development chops up our land, wildlife corridors must be designated and preserved. This is even more necessary as climate change modifies habitats.

The same week we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, I introduced legislation to protect our nation’s wildlife corridors. My [legislation](#) would establish a Wildlife Corridors Stewardship and Protection Fund to provide grants to federal agencies, states, local governments, nonprofits, and corporations for the management and protection of essential wildlife corridors. Additionally, the bill would require the Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior and the Department of Transportation to consider the preservation of these migration paths in their management plans.

Sincerely,

RUSH HOLT

Member of Congress